

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 91**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 70**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 91—Relative to Scleroderma Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 9, 2012.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SCR 91, Runner. Scleroderma Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim June 2012 as Scleroderma Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Scleroderma is a chronic, disabling autoimmune disease in which the body's soft tissues contract and harden from an overproduction of collagen; and

WHEREAS, Scleroderma can affect many parts of the body including skin, internal organs, and blood vessels; and

WHEREAS, Scleroderma sufferers often experience damage to the heart, lungs, kidneys, and the gastrointestinal tract; and

WHEREAS, Scleroderma is associated with many other conditions including pulmonary hypertension, gastroparesis, Raynaud's phenomenon, Sjögren's syndrome, and lupus; and

WHEREAS, Choctaw Native Americans, African Americans, and Hispanics are disproportionately affected by scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, Researchers have yet to identify the exact cause or causes of scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 300,000 Americans suffer from scleroderma, and 80 percent of those are women; and

WHEREAS, The estimated total economic impact of scleroderma treatment is estimated to be in excess of \$1.5 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, There is a significant need for further research focusing on the epidemiology of scleroderma to increase understanding of the causes of the disease and its treatment; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has recognized the need to raise awareness of the impact of scleroderma on public health and has designated June as National Scleroderma Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, California should also designate a month as Scleroderma Awareness Month to help educate the public about autoimmune diseases and the need for increased research, funding, and effective treatments for those diseases; and

WHEREAS, The designation of such a month would recognize the efforts of health care providers, patients, and scleroderma advocacy organizations

to raise awareness of scleroderma and of the need for increased research on scleroderma; and

WHEREAS, June 2012 would be an appropriate month to designate as Scleroderma Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature proclaims the month of June 2012 as Scleroderma Awareness Month; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of the resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.